

**Remarks of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
at the US 40 Ribbon Cutting
July 28th, 2011
Richmond, IN**

Thank you, I'm so happy to be here today with our friends from Earlham College and so many local elected officials.

Today is the Montgomery County leg of my Hoosier Crossroads Tour. I plan to be in each of Indiana's 92 counties over the next 18 months, and it is fortunate timing that my visit to Richmond includes celebrating the completion of this project on US 40.

I came to Richmond in May of 2006 to talk about the benefits of Major Moves, and it's so satisfying to see one of those projects come to fruition.

Infrastructure improvements are one of the top reasons businesses choose to locate and invest in Indiana. Here in Richmond, the improvements to US 40 are an excellent tool to boost economic development and to strengthen Earlham College. We're proud that Earlham is a strong partner Indiana's network of world-class colleges and universities.

We've invested more than five billion dollars in new infrastructure construction and preservation since 2006, thanks to Major Moves.

It has also given Indiana a distinct economic advantage and positioned us to make fast work of federal stimulus dollars as well. And Major Moves was more than five times the amount of money we received through stimulus funding.

Here in Richmond, US 40 reconstruction began in 2009, with \$9.1 million in Major Moves funding. Reconstruction is one of the best ways we can ensure this important

highway remains safe and enjoyable for drivers. The old lanes were narrow and rough, but now we have a much improved driving experience with wider lanes and a center turn lane for added safety.

And drivers aren't the only ones who will benefit from these changes. Concrete center islands, a new traffic signal and a pedestrian-activated sound and light beacon for crossing will greatly improve safety at the entrance to Earlham College.

There's also a new foot bridge over Clear Creek and a number of infrastructure improvements from storm sewers to sidewalks and hand railing.

These are the kinds of improvements that other states are putting off indefinitely. But Indiana's fiscal health and the prudence and foresight of Major Moves have put us in a position to take action and make necessary improvements across the state.

I look forward to the increased quality of life residents will enjoy thanks to this reconstruction project – and the great impression visitors will have of this proud city.